HINDUSTAN TIMES
24/9/1969.

This is it!

By Sudhir Dar

"We are a poor man's party"
—Nijalingappa.

DECCAN HERALD
24/9/1969.

Giri and Telengana

IT IS A SOMEWHAT extraordinary move th the President has made in letting himself publicl be seized of the Telengana problem. The statemer that he would solicit the views of people from a walks of life, discuss the problem with them an finally make his own assessment to be conveyed t the Prime Minister, naturally must dispel any chanc apprehensions of his being even involuntarily ir volved in the controversy. Considering the circum stances of Mr. Giri becoming the Head of State, h must be hailed as the People's President, a fact c which he seems very much aware, so that it is nc surprising that Mr. Giri has felt bold to make wha is hoped to be a decisive contribution to the solutio of the tangled problem of Telengana. This proble is essentially the product of Authority's failure t do the right in the right time or is, at any rate, th result of its settled practice of doing things by halve That this region suffered neglect and that the cove nanted assurances to the people of Telengana wer ignored for too long, is a well-established fact. Mr Sanjiva Reddy as Speaker confessed in the Lol Sabha that he was also to blame for creation of th crisis then convulsing Andhra Pradesh, for, as Chie Minister he had failed to do his duty to Telengana

But it fell to the lot of Mr. Brahmananda Reddy as Chief Minister, to face the explosion of the politi cal dynamite that had long been building up in th Telengana region. Indeed, at one stage he seemec the very symbol of what a revolting Telengana con sidered Andhra oppression. On June 25, we suggest ed that a way-out of the situation then obtainin could be the withdrawal of Mr. Brahmananda Redd from the Andhra scene to join the Union Cabine in the vacancy of Mr. Chenna Reddy, a successo being elected from the Telengana region. Week later, the Congress Parliamentary Board endorsec the view that Mr. Reddy might quit once order wa restored. The Congress President's discovery or September 5 that normalcy had returned to Andhra Pradesh and that it was time for Mr. Brahmananda Reddy to give up Chief Ministership was conceivab ly facilitated by knowledge of Mr. Reddy's role in the recent Presidential election. But there is consi- derable force in the Chief Minister's contention that it is for the legislators to decide the issue. Even now it should be possible to solve the problem without breaking up the present State, and Mr. Brahmananda Reddy's joining the Central Cabinet and strengthen- ing the Prime Minister's hands could be helpful to all concerned.

DECCAN HERALD
24/9/1969.

POLITICAL COMMENTARY *By Narayan Swamy*

Struggle for control of party apparatus

MR. KAMARAJ may be convinced that another trial of strength between the rival groups in the Congress will be fatal for the party, but the supporters of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi are convinced that control of the party apparatus is essential if the momentum generated by the take-over of the banks is to be maintained and the stability of the Central Government ensured.

Preparations are afoot for requisitioning a meeting of the AICC. in Delhi soon. About 150 members are to sign the requisition under the amended constitution of the party, but mobilisation of this number of signatories is the least of the difficulties.

The constitution lays down how an AICC meeting can be requisitioned to discuss a specific subject. What can be the most plausible excuse for insisting on an early AICC session? It may not be tactically wise to table a motion of no-confidence in the President, Mr. Nijalingappa. In the context of the unity resolution, such a move may generate a lot of sympathy for him even though it may generally be conceded that his record in office has been singularly unimpressive.

FACTIONAL POLITICS

Any obvious charge is that even as the Opposition parties are exploiting the nationalisation of banks the Congress President has been more concerned with factional politics. This and other charges will no doubt be pressed during the AICC session, but whether it should be the subject of a requisition notice is an entirely different matter.

The tentative decision appears to be that the stated aim of the next AICC session will be to decide follow-up measures in the wake of bank nationalisation. This is admittedly somewhat vague but may serve the purpose.

A special meeting of the AICC has become necessary because organisational elections have been postponed by a year. Normally they would have been held by the end of the year, but at Faridabad the Working Committee took a decision to postpone them till the end of 1970.

Likewise, the tenure of Mr. Nijalingappa has also been extended till the end of next year. The ostensible reason for such an unusual step was that the constitution was in the process of being amended and that elections under the revised constitution could best be held a year later. If Mrs. Gandhi is to wrest control of the party apparatus, Mr. Nijalingappa has to be ousted through a no-confidence move or the AICC should decide to advance the date of organisational elections.

CHANGE OF LEADER

Mrs. Gandhi's supporters have not yet decided on the course to be adopted. There is no denying the fact that most of them are eager to have Mr. Nijalingappa replaced by someone who is closer to Mrs. Gandhi ideologically.

But an unsuspected difficulty has arisen. The party constitution, strangely enough, has no provision relating to a no-confidence move in the President. Therefore, the question whether the AICC can entertain at all a motion to this effect is open to doubt. The President is elected by the delegates and perhaps they alone can remove him from office. But the constitution is silent on this score.

Therefore, a roundabout approach may be preferred. The AICC can surely be asked to pass a resolution, advancing the date of organisational elections.

This itself can be construed as censure of the President and the Working Committee, though an indirect one. The procedure is unimportant so long as the issue is posed openly.

Is control of the party apparatus so important for Mrs. Gandhi's plans? She enjoys the support of a big majority of the members of the Congress Parliamentary Party and is free to institute further economic reforms. On the surface, it may appear to be an unnecessary and irrelevant effort to capture the organisation.

But so long as the Congress Party majority in the Lok Sabha is thin (it has an overall majority of only 43 now) and the Syndicate bosses continue to be in command at all levels of the organisation, it will be but a precarious existence for her Government.

Or she will have to fall back on the support of Leftist Opposition parties to stave off a defeat on the floor of the House. This can at best be only a temporary arrangement. Any further reforms cannot be undertaken lightly when the future of the Government can be jeopardised by the hard-core Right-wing elements.

Even ignoring the compulsions of the intra-party struggle, a case can be made out for easing the bosses out of their positions in the party. If the Congress is to acquire a new image and is to recapture the lost allegiance of vast sections of the people, the old leaders who led it to disaster at the polls in 1967 must give way to those who are more in sympathy with the aspirations of the younger generations and are certainly free from the taint of bossism.

The Syndicate still claims the support of a majority of the AICC members, but Mrs. Gandhi's supporters believe that the arithmetic is in their favour. According to their calculations, a minimum of 450 out of a total of 750 AICC members will rally behind Mrs. Gandhi. Now that the Maharashtra Congress has come out openly on her side, the Syndicate's claims must be treated with more than ordinary scepticism.

ODDS

In a direct confrontation between Mrs. Gandhi and the Syndicate, the odds against the latter will be formidable indeed. Popular opinion is on her side. Contrast the meagre crowds at Mr. Nijalingappa's meetings with the lakhs that come to hear her. If only for the very selfish reason that Mrs. Gandhi's support will be invaluable in 1972, every prospective candidate for a seat in Parliament or the State legislatures will swing to her side.

The struggle for the organisation has begun. The climax may be reached in the next two months.

DECCAN HERALD
24/9/1969.

Revolution if poverty continues, warns PM

AGARTALA, Sept. 23.

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi warned yesterday that the country would head towards "revolution" if economic inequalities persisted.

Revolution, Mrs. Gandhi said, would become inevitable if the Congress failed to bring about a peaceful and orderly social transformation.

Mrs. Gandhi was addressing a mammoth public meeting here at the Assam Rifles parade ground attended by over one lakh people.

Without naming the Left Communists, Mrs. Gandhi said some people believed in achieving progress through methods which would only mean loss of production and rampant unemployment.

BACKWARD SECTIONS

The Prime Minister thought the backward sections of society like the Adivasis constituted the greatest threat to India's freedom and orderly progress because they were the weakest link in the chain of unity. She considered the poverty and backwardness of the Adivasis to be thousands of years old. But what alarmed her was that these people continued to be defenceless and victims of exploitation even today.

Urging the people to co-operate with the Government in implementing the Plan programme, Mrs. Gandhi said slogans would not lead anywhere. Only hard work, industrial and agricultural production would push the country to the stage of economic take-off.

The Prime Minister said India had to show the world that she could overcome her problems and establish an egalitarian society.

Cautioning the people against undue expectations, Mrs. Gandhi said the Government could not in a short while remove all their difficulties.

Progress was a time-consuming affair and the people had to be patient. She promised that in addition to bank nationalisation a number of measures would be taken to reorientate the economic policy.

Thanking the people of Tripura for their warm reception, Mrs. Gandhi said the Union Territory was a backward region. Its problems had been accentuated by the influx of refugees from East Pakistan.

Mrs. Gandhi said after Independence India had registered steady progress till 1962, when she was attacked by China. Her progress was retarded further by the war with Pakistan in 1965. The country was now on the road to recovery, she said.—PTI.

DECCAN HERALD
24/9/1969.

Kamaraj wants people's directors for banks

MADRAS, Sept. 23.—The nationalised banks should be converted into people's banks and administered by people's representatives, former Congress President K. Kamaraj suggested here yesterday.

He was participating at a municipal function in the city.

The Government should hold 50 per cent of nationalised banks' shares and the common people should be made to acquire the remaining shares, he said.

In nominating directors to these banks, Mr. Kamaraj said, small trades and common people should be represented. Mere nationalisation of banks would not create the feeling that the banks belonged to the people, he said.

MIXED ECONOMY

Addressing a press conference in Agartala yesterday, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi said that India had adopted a policy of mixed economy. There was no programme of large-scale nationalisation. Bank nationalisation was a different matter because bank deposits belonged to the people.

Also bank nationalisation was not a socialist measure as banks had been taken over in other countries like France which was not a socialist country, she added.

Union Labour Minister Jaisukhlal Hathi said in Indore yesterday that the present trends in the country—when banks are nationalised to serve better the common man and when monopolies must make way for a socialist order—should be viewed in the background of India's constitutional objectives.

The ideals and objectives enshrined in the Constitution bore close resemblance to that of the International Labour Organisation, he said while inaugurating a function to mark the 50th anniversary of the ILO at Indore University.

CREDIT FACILITIES

The question of co-ordination of credit to small-scale industries by the 14 nationalised banks and the State Bank of India and its subsidiaries is to be considered at the Standing Committee meeting to be held in New Delhi on September 27.

The State Bank of India in a note has said that the question of co-ordination has assumed vital importance as the ultimate objective should be to ensure that available resources in terms of manpower and finance are best utilised by eliminating overlapping, duplication of efforts and unhealthy competition.

The pattern of structural changes in the nationalised banks is yet to be decided but, the note says, it has been indicated that there would not be any major change in the organisational set-up of these banks in the near future.

The State Bank has, therefore, suggested that the committee should consider ways to achieve co-ordination at apex, regional and district levels.—UNI & PTI.

MP Congress appeal

BHOPAL, Sept. 23.—The Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee has urged the party's Central leadership to "iron out differences" and maintain party solidarity in the light of the recent "unity resolution."

The MPCC Executive last night urged partymen to voice their grievances on the organisational platform alone and not to make public issue of them.—PTI.

Congress needs a feminine touch

CUTTACK, Sept. 23.—The Congress Party needs to be given a more feminine touch for the success of its socialist programmes, Mrs. Nandini Satpathy, Union Deputy Minister attached to the Prime Minister, said here yesterday.

She said that since real socialism began at home, the women members should carry the message of Socialism to the fold of the Congress Party.

Talking to newsmen, Mrs. Satpathy said the emergence of the Forum for Socialist Action was necessary to "help the party intensify and speed up implementation of the socialist programme."

She denied that it was a parallel organisation. It was a group inside the party which would speed up the implementation of the socialist programme. The relationship of the Forum with the party was "complementary," she added.—UNI.

DECCAN HERALD
24/9/1969.

Reorganisation rumours denied

NEW DELHI, Sept. 23. — A spokesman of the Prime Minister's Secretariat today denied reports in a section of the press relating to reorganisation of the Prime Minister's Secretariat.

He said "reports have appeared from time to time about the alleged reorganisation of the Prime Minister's Secretariat. Most recent of them speak of a proposal to set up a council of economists in the Prime Minister's Secretariat with a chairman. It is maintained that such a council will be charged with the task of formulating new economic policies which would lead to reduction in the importance and functions of the Planning Commission.

There is no proposal to set up a council nor has anyone been approached to be its chairman, the spokesman said.

"The Planning Commission headed by Prof. D. R. Adgil and others would continue to have exclusive responsibility in the field of economic planning."—UNI.

INDIAN EXPRESS
24/9/1969.

Banks: Kamaraj wants say for people

MADRAS, Sept. 23 (UNI)
The nationalised banks should be converted into people's banks and administered by peoples representatives, former Congress President K. Kamaraj suggested participating at a municipal function in the city here last evening.

The Government should hold 50 per cent of nationalised banks' shares and the common people should be made acquire the remaining shares, he said.

In nominating directors to these banks, he said small trades and common people should be represented.

Mere nationalisation of banks would not create the feeling that the banks belonged to the people, he said.

SBI scheme

Small farmers can individually get credit from the State Bank of India now, on personal and crop security, with or without a collateral security.

Loans upto Rs. 10,000 to be repaid after a harvest, are to be granted under a "small farmers scheme" introduced a few months ago. About Rs. 50 lakhs are to be disbursed before October.

A spokesman of the agricultural credit department of the State Bank told the Indian Express that up to Rs. 1,000, the loan would be granted on personal and crop security only, with interest ranging from 8.5 per cent to 9 per cent. The loan would be available for both food and commercial crops.

As an experimental measure, the department had chosen four areas in the Madras circle — Nannilam (Tamil Nadu), Palghat (Kerala), Hubli (Mysore) and Nellore (Andhra Pradesh). On the basis of results, the scheme would be extended to other places.

The spadework for the scheme was over. During the next week, the first loans would be disbursed in Nellore. Farmers in Nannilam and the other two centres would get their loans within the next few days.

THE HINDUSTAN
24/9/1969.

Kamaraj & P.M.'s Trip: Students' Demand

From Our Correspondent

MADURAI, Sept. 23.

A group of about 40 students made a surprise call on Mr. C. Subramaniam, President Tamil Nad Congress Committee and had an informal chat with him for about two hours to-day. The students asked some searching questions.

The TNCC President was asked why certain Congressmen were isolating Mr. Kamaraj from the Party's activities. Mr. Subramaniam replied that the students were harbouring a wrong impression and that all was well. He drew the attention of the students to the recent meeting between the Prime Minister and Mr. Kamaraj and said that it was he (Mr. Subramaniam) who initiated the meeting.

Se veral students demanded that Mr. Kamaraj should be invited to participate in the Prime Minister's functions during her tour and that the former Chief Minister, Mr. M. Bhaktavatsalam, should be asked not to speak at any of the public meetings arranged in connection with Mrs. Indira Gandhi's visit.

Mr. Subramaniam told the students that Mr. Kamaraj would certainly be invited to participate in the functions but he could not assure them that Mr. Bhaktavatsalam would not be allowed to participate.

This meeting between the students and the TNCC President was held at the Gandhi Museum despite frantic efforts made by the Museum authorities to dissuade the students from discussing politics in the Museum premises.

Referring to recent events which posed a threat to the unity of the Congress Party, Mr. Subramaniam said it was now necessary to have a detailed discussion at the AICC level on Party unity, discipline and what should be the relationship between the organisational and administrative wings of the Party.

UNI reports from Madras:

The former Congress President, Mr. K. Kamaraj, denied having accused the TNCC President Mr. C. Subramaniam in respect of the Prime Minister's visit to Tamil Nadu in the first week of October next.

Addressing the Congress workers meeting in Triplicane last evening, he said that he was not made aware of the engagements of the Prime Minister in the city. He wanted that the Prime Minister's visit should be utilised for the celebration of Gandhi Centenary "in a big way."

Mr. Kamaraj said that he did not accuse Mr. Subramaniam with not informing him about the visit of the Prime Minister to Tamil Nadu.

He also suggested that there should be no argument during Gandhi Centenary celebrations about minor matters. Probably, he said, Mr. Subramaniam, as a lawyer wanted to argue about a "simple thing" which had been "made much of by him."

He said a big rally in which thousands of people including women and students would be participating would be arranged when the Prime Minister visited the city to celebrate Gandhi Centenary.

THE HINDU
24/9/1969.

Y. B. Chavan–After the MPCC Meet

By V. Venkateswaran

BOMBAY.

As expected, Mr. Y. B. Chavan, the Union Home Minister, emerged as the "strong man" of the Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee, and his powerful image and the influence he wields over the State were clearly seen in the deliberations of the three-day workers' conference.

Before the meeting, a small section of the workers had doubted the "wisdom" of the role played by Mr. Chavan in the recent political happenings in the country. In fact, these leaders could not muster enough strength for their meeting which was held a day before the commencement of the MPCC rally. But when Mr. Chavan departed from his usual custom of addressing the workers at the fag end of the session, he reasserted his sway over the delegates by his powerful speech. The impact was immediate and some of the workers commented immediately after the speech that the purpose of the session had been achieved and there was no need to drag it on for two more days.

Mr. Chavan drew a long cheer from the meeting when he committed the State Congress workers and himself to Mrs. Gandhi and the steps she was taking in implementing the Ten-point Programme adopted by the Bangalore session of the AICC. He reminded the house that the MPCC was committed to socialistic principles long ago and as far back as 1963 it wanted nationalisation of the commercial banks. In some other measures like the Land Requisition Bill and monopoly procurement of grains, the State had blazed a new trail as the successful forerunner in the implementation of socialist programmes. Mr. Chavan said in no unmistakable terms that he was "a socialist first and last" and that he would give undiluted support to the Prime Minister in her pursuit of socialist principles. This declaration took the wind out of the sails of his critics in the party who had stated that Mr. Chavan "did not play his cards well" in the recent political events and that he had some "ulterior motives."

FRANK DISCUSSION

In one respect, the organisers of the MPCC meeting should be congratulated for it provided a forum to discuss frankly among the workers the ideologies before the Congress Party and other problems facing it. They wanted from Mr. Chavan a clear picture of the political upheaval in the party and his future role in the organisation.

Mr. Chavan could feel happy that the MPCC was entirely behind him as also the two powerful leaders in the party, namely, Mr. Vasantarao Naik, Chief Minister of Maharashtra and Mr. Vasantarao Dada Patil, President of the MPCC, whose hold on the organisation is powerful. These leaders represent two entirely different regions in the State. The MPCC President controls the vast co-operative sector in Western Maharashtra, while Mr. Naik, besides his importance as the Chief Minister, represents the Vidarbha Region. Vidarbha is yet to make much leeway in the industrial progress of the State in comparison with Western Maharashtra. But Mr. Naik has set in motion many measures which will in course of time open an era of industrial prosperity for this neglected region. The support of these two leaders to Mr. Chavan has considerably enhanced his position among all sections of workers. The clever politician Mr. Chavan is, he will capitalise this regaining of strength to further advantage when the occasion demands.

The members of the Bombay Pradesh Congress Committee, who were invitees to the 'Shibir', did not take any active part in the deliberations of the rally excepting one lonely instance. There was a move afoot before the session that Mr. S. K. Patil should be invited to address it. But it did not materialise and it is doubtful whether Mr. Patil would have agreed to address the meeting. However, there was a feeling of disappointment among many members of the BPCC that Mr. Chavan and the President of the MPCC did not consider the treatment meted out to Mr. Morarji Desai by Mrs. Indira Gandhi.

Mr. Chavan, feeling the pulse of the workers at the meeting, did not make any reference at all to this issue and the personalities concerned in his two addresses at the session. His silence on this subject did not, however, deter a few senior leaders of the MPCC who expressed their concern to me that this subject was bound to crop up—if not now at least after some time. These senior leaders maintained that the discipline of the party could not be sacrificed to suit the conveniences of certain leaders for political expediency. If the same indiscipline was allowed to percolate into the Congress organisation to suit one's immediate convenience, the organisation could not survive however strong it might be.

PARTY DISCIPLINE

If Mr. Chavan had made his views on this subject clear, his reputation would have been enhanced still further. True, Mr. Chavan made a passing reference to discipline but it echoed what Mrs. Indira Gandhi has already spelt out. Some members pointed out to me that the report appearing in the Press about the threatened Satyagraha of Mr. Morarji Desai on this issue was itself wrong. Furthermore, Mr. Desai himself had not talked about the subject clearly so far. Mr. Chavan was very keen to keep away from fresh controversies at the session.

I understand from circles close to Mr. Chavan that he is now very much "allergic" to the word "Syndicate". This, however, does not mean that he has been estranged from his erstwhile colleagues in the "Syndicate". He does not want the senior leaders to be isolated or ignored. He wants the Congress organisation to maintain unity and re-dedicate itself to the task of marching on the socialist path ahead by enlisting the services of young blood in the party.

Mr. Chavan earned the praise of even his critics and a few of them have now become his open supporters impressed by the way he reprimanded the workers who tried to heckle and prevent Mr. Tulsidas Jadhav, M.P., and Mr. R. K. Khadilkhar, Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha, from expressing their opinion on current problems, though it might not have struck a harmonious note to the assembled gathering.

The organisers of the MPCC feel proud that it had set an example by its rally for discussing the issues facing the organisation threadbare and taking realistic stock of the political and economic situation facing them.

BPCC SEMINAR

I understand that the Bombay Pradesh Congress Committee, though not holding a seminar of this type, will convene a meeting soon to discuss the successful implementation of the bank nationalisation programme. Many leading economists and bankers will take part in its deliberations. The BPCC is also very keen to tackle the problems of the hutment dwellers in the City. This problem is a growing one and needs immediate attention. It is a welcome move that the BPCC is in correspondence with the State Government to solve this problem. The new and energetic Municipal Commissioner has already addressed himself to the task and is preparing a blueprint. A prominent spokesman of the BPCC told me that if the Maharashtra Government blesses this blueprint, it will mark another milestone in its path of implementing socialist ideologies.

Another subject which the BPCC has taken on hand is the growing unemployment problem in Greater Bombay. Already Mr. Naik, the Chief Minister, had announced relief to the unemployed engineers and stressed the need to employ them usefully. The MPCC also discussed this problem and Mr. Chavan underlined the importance of providing job opportunities to them.